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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 1978

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
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Volume 8 Number 4

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Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.
2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.
3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).
4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.
5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.
6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.
7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.
8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.
9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.
10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.
11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.
12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.
13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.
14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

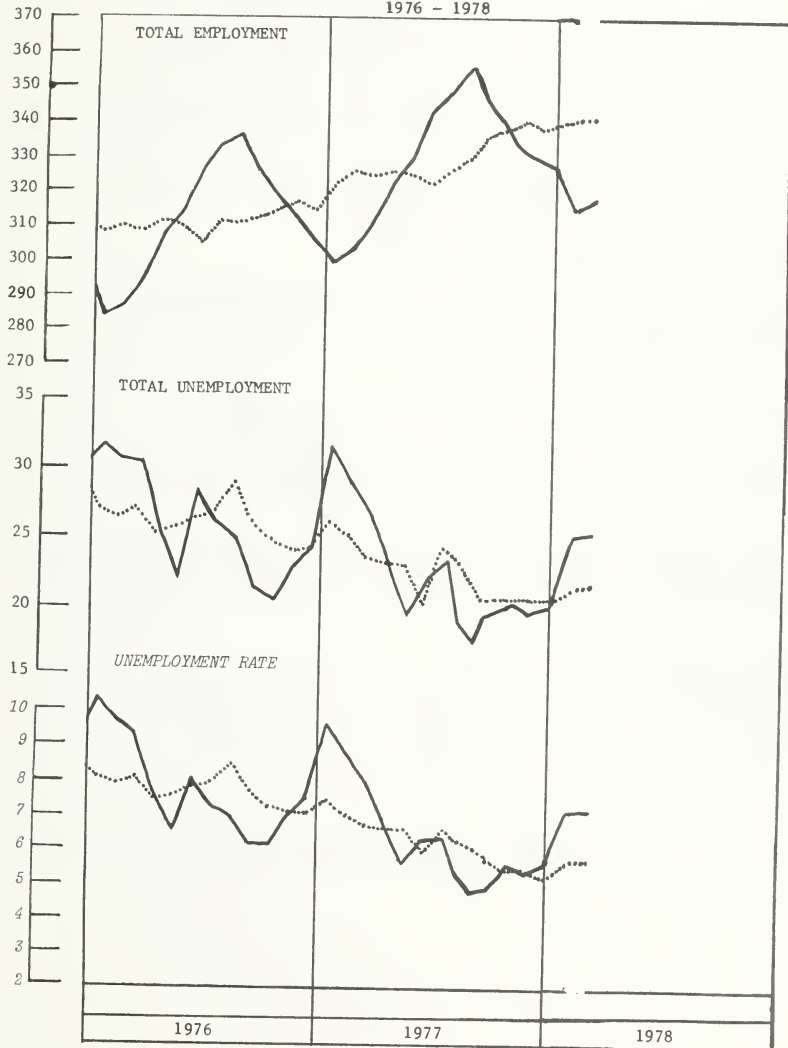
MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)

(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED:)

(Thousands)

1976 - 1978



STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS



As anticipated, Montana's economy continued to gain seasonal momentum this month, displaying a strengthened posture in most indicators.

The employment situation showed marked improvement over February's status, with a gain of 6,700 persons in the civilian labor force. That figure currently stands at 349,500. Employment levels advanced by 8,000 workers, reaching a total of 325,100 in March. The unemployment situation on a statewide basis also improved, with 1,300 fewer individuals in the ranks of the jobless. This course of events has yielded a very good decline in the calculated (not seasonally adjusted) rate of unemployment, from 7.5% in February, to a current rate of 7.0%. As was the case last month, the agricultural sector made the largest contribution to employment gains, realizing a net increase of 4,900 workers. This sizeable increase is due predominantly to the calving season which is now underway, as well as preparation for spring planting throughout the state.

The construction sector appears to be another dominant force in the economy at this time, experiencing increasing levels of employment in all regions. Furthermore, the trend in the number of building permits issued statewide appears to have taken a substantial leap forward in March. Though the number of these permits is not as great as it was during the first quarter last year, it nonetheless represents a healthy, if expected, turn of events in the seasonal growth of Montana's economy.

The manufacturing sector, which is dominated by the lumber and wood products industry, has shown very little change in total employment levels this month. However, local information confirms the expected effects of the "spring breakup" in the forests, with widespread, temporary work stoppages due to the inability of loggers to move material in and out of the woods.

Other selected indicators of the state of the economy have each shown signs of improvement during the first quarter of 1978. Among them, cumulative new business formations are up 6.9% over the comparable three month period last year; the composite index of six leading indicators, though available only through January, increased for the third consecutive month, and was up to 100.0 at that time; and finally, real spendable earnings increased slightly from January, to February's level of \$93.63.

In general, the economy of Montana is remaining on a stable course, but continuing to display moderate seasonality.

Milder weather should provide a continuing stimulus to industry statewide, but no extraordinary changes are expected in the near future.

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



As anticipated, the employment and unemployment situation in the Great Falls area has begun to show its seasonal trend of improvement.

The civilian labor force experienced a moderate increase of 300 persons from February's level, reaching a total of 34,400 during March. Of this number, 32,100 individuals were employed, amounting to an increase of 700 over last month's total. During the same period, the number of people who were without work decreased by 400, to a March total of 2,300.

These very favorable shifts in labor force figures have resulted in a 1.1% decline in the rate of unemployment in the Great Falls SMSA from February to March. That rate currently stands at 6.7%, which equals the unemployment rate recorded in the area during the same month in 1977.

The Job Service office in Great Falls reported a recent decrease in the number of unemployment insurance claims filed, due in part to the return of many construction workers to their jobs. Increased employment was evident in the agricultural and trade sectors as well during the past month.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The economy of this area in March showed some degree of uncertainty as to an improved seasonal posture.

Typically, the onset of warmer weather has been of the greatest aid to the construction industry. This is evidenced in large measure by a substantial increase in the number of building permits issued by the City of Great Falls during March. At eighty-six, that figure is nearly three times greater than the number of permits issued during the previous month. Though this substantial increase in building permits is a positive factor for the city, it is undermined by the fact that the permit totals are considerably less than those recorded during February and March of 1977. The reasons for these circumstances are difficult to identify this soon in the year. However, the fact should be kept in mind that 1977 was a particularly strong year in the building sector, and therefore may not provide a good gauge for comparison with current conditions.

New business formations in the Great Falls SMSA have also shown some initial weakness in 1978. Although this appeared to be a positive economic indicator for the first two months of the year, at 38, March's new business registrations amount to slightly more than half of the 70 recorded in March 1977.

Once again, the reader is cautioned that one month's data are not sufficient to draw conclusions. However, the current status of these broad economic indicators certainly warrants continued observation and analysis.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)



The civilian labor force stood at 51,400 persons in March, representing a 1.8% annual increase from the 50,500 level a year ago. Those holding jobs totaled 48,500 persons in March, which is a gain of 500 workers from the previous month and 700 from March 1977. This does not compare favorably with the 4% to 6% employment growth rates of 1976 and 1977, and if this slower growth trend continues, the unemployment rolls will ultimately be affected, as fewer job openings are divided among the unemployed and the new entrants and re-entrants to the labor force.

This situation occurred in March, as both the labor force and the unemployment rolls grew at higher rates than the employment ranks. As such, March's unemployment rate rose to 5.7%, up from 5.6% in February and 5.4% recorded for March a year ago. The actual number of unemployed totaled 2,900 persons, up 100

from last month and 200 from March 1977.

As stated above, early 1978 labor force statistics have not portrayed a continuation of last year's patterns and should be watched closely in the next several months. However, one quarter's data do not necessarily set a trend for the entire year.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

In March, a total of 185 building permits were issued in Billings, which represents a decline of 34% from the 279 figure for March one year ago. This brought the year-to-date total to 301 permits, also down from 1977, when 479 permits were issued. The building valuation for the first three months of 1978 totaled \$11,384,431. Highlights of March's permits include: 104 single family dwellings, four duplexes, one fourplex, and 17 other multi-family units. In the commercial sector permits were issued for a new department store building valued at over \$1 million, a \$880,000 facility for a chain grocery store, a new shop and office of an existing truck dealer, and several office buildings. First quarter data on building activity provides positive indication that this industry remains strong in the Billings area, although not at the level of one year ago, when residential building reached record proportions.

New business formations still remain on an upward path, as a total of 216 new firms entered the Billings SMSA during the first quarter of this year. This represents a 14.9% increase from the same period one year ago.

Business activity during the past month includes: initial construction of another fast food restaurant, the opening of a dental laboratory, the near completion of the new plant for a bakery producer, and the closing of a retail carpet mart. A retail ceramic tile center will move into the vacated carpet facility following remodeling.

In general, the major industries remain stable in this area, with no great surge in new hiring or layoffs. There are some negative signs present in the current indicators, which if continued, could threaten this phase in the business recovery. However, it should be remembered that when comparing 1978 to 1977 data, any negative changes are being noted against 1977's banner year in nearly all sectors. As such, slight declines may not reflect any real business downturn. In regard to the employment situation, the second quarter's data will give a better picture of the state of the labor market, as many of Montana's seasonal industries enter their most active period.

ANACONDA - BUTTE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The 7.7% unemployment rate for March is a significant improvement over both the 8.7% rate of February and the 9.2% rate of March last year. This accounted for a 300 drop in the number of unemployed from February for a new total of 2,600. The unemployment rates for the six county area varied from a low of 3.8% in Madison County to a high of 10.3% in Granite County.

Employment continues to grow - up 2.6% from one year ago. 31,200 workers are employed in the area. 47% of the employed are in Silver Bow County, while 57% of the unemployed are also in this county.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Although the Butte area continues to be plagued by cut backs in the depressed copper industry, there have been upswings in the construction and retail areas. Building permits exceeded \$1 million in Butte - Silver Bow for

March. Part of this boost is the new county shop facility which is expected to exceed \$1.7 million upon completion. Continued good sales in the retail stores have opened some part-time employment and as more new shops in the Butte Plaza open this should continue.

A local resort promises to expand construction employment in the Anaconda area. Construction is presently underway to expand convention facilities, to build new homes and a recreation vehicle park at the resort. All other areas are remaining static for now. But with the shut-down of the local copper smelter for two months this summer, prospects for the area are far from bright.

Construction seems to dominate the economic activity in the Dillon area. 30 new homes and a 51-unit apartment building are making this a force in the local economy. Oil drilling is continuing north of Dillon. As calving and lambing get into full swing greater employment is being noted in the agricultural sector.

BOZEMAN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In March, the unemployment rate dropped to 5.6% for this three-county area, after posting a 6.3% rate last month. The labor market has shown definite improvement from March 1977, when the rate stood at 7.3%. The general improvement was most notable in Gallatin County, which experienced a 4.8% jobless ratio, while Meagher and Park Counties noted rates still above 7%, at 7.7% and 7.9%, respectively.

The labor force stood at 26,000 in March, up 1,900 persons, or 7.9%, from the same month a year ago.

BOZEMAN LMA (Cont)

Coupled with the drop in unemployment, the greater Bozeman area appears to be off to an excellent year in terms of the labor market. This is also reflected in the employment ranks, which experienced a 9.8% increase over comparable figures from 1977.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

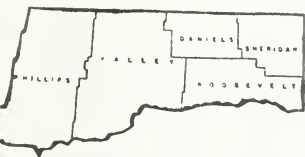
The economy of the Bozeman LMA has started to display an improved status in recent weeks. Warmer and dryer weather has enabled outdoor work to resume in many cases, and the construction sector in particular should experience employment increases in the coming months. This conclusion is strongly supported by the increases in building permits issued in the city of Bozeman. During March, 28 permits were granted, compared with 15 during February, and 5 in January. These increases suggest that a consequent rise in the demand for construction workers will take place in the area if moderate weather conditions persist.

New business formations in the tri-county LMA totaled 40 for the month of March. To date this year, 117 new firms have been registered in the area, but this figure still lags behind the total of 124 which was recorded during the same three month period in 1977. Among the more prominent enterprises expected to begin operating in April are a national restaurant chain outlet employing approximately 40 people, and a motel which should provide employment for about 15 individuals.

In other sectors employment levels should rise as well. Recent reports indicate that the National Park Service has already begun its seasonal recall of workers, adding to an improving employment picture for the Bozeman LMA.

GLASGOW LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



The LMA is revealing the effects of the spring weather, as March's unemployment rate dropped to 6.1% from February's figure of 6.9%. The March unemployment rate also compares favorably with the March 1977 figure of 6.7%. Valley County led the LMA with an unemployment rate of 8.9% in March, but this is a reduction from the 11.2% figure for February (revised statistics). The other counties' unemployment rates fluctuated very little from February to March. The March rates for the respective counties are: Daniels, 3.9%; Phillips, 6.6%; Roosevelt, 5.1%; and Sheridan, 3.4%.

The improvement in the employment picture is portrayed by an increase of 300 persons in the civilian labor force from February to March. The increase is the result of a net growth in employment, which rose to 15,700 individuals in March, from a level of 15,300 one month ago. At the same time there was a reduction of 100 persons from the unemployment roll.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The area is finally beginning to show a resurgence in economic activity after the slow-down during the winter months. Due to the improving weather conditions, work has resumed on a number of construction projects in the area.

GLASGOW LMA (Cont.)

The agricultural sector has also added an impetus to the economy, with hands hired for the calving season.

Glasgow still has a relatively high unemployment rate, but the economy is capable of growth with the expansion of the Valley Industrial Park. The Chemical Dependency Center opened at the park, and should be a positive force in the Glasgow economy.

GLEN DIVE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The employment situation in the Glendive LMA took its first step toward a seasonal pattern of improvement this month. The civilian labor force reached a level of 14,100 persons in March, an increase of 500 from last month. At the same time, the number of people employed in the area increased by 400, totaling 13,300 for the month. Unfortunately, an increase was also registered in the ranks of the unemployed, which advanced to an eleven month high of 800 individuals. The net effect of these changes on the unemployment rate in the LMA was to decrease it slightly, from 5.5% in February, to 5.4% in March.



Comparison of these figures with those recorded during the same month one year ago reveals mixed changes in the employment situation. While the civilian labor force and the number of employed persons have increased (6.0% and 4.7% respectively), so too, has the number of unemployed individuals in the area. These shifts resulted in the increase of the rate of unemployment from the 4.9% recorded in March 1977.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

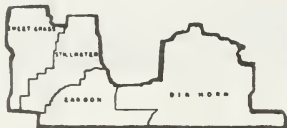
With winter weather conditions rapidly dissipating economic activity has taken a turn for the better in this six-county LMA. As might be expected, the construction industry reportedly has begun experiencing a significant seasonal revival, with an increasing number of requests for carpenters and miscellaneous laborers being received in local Job Service offices.

Milder weather is also having an apparent positive effect on area shoppers, as the trade sector has enjoyed generally improved business volume in recent weeks. The number of new businesses in the region has shown a healthy increase as well. During March, 23 new enterprises were registered, compared with 14 in the previous month. Furthermore, the year-to-date total of 48 firms is 55% greater than that recorded for the first three months of 1977.

HARDIN - RED LODGE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In March, the civilian labor force stood at 11,800 persons for this four-county labor market area. This compares with 11,600 persons in March 1977, for a marginal increase of 1.7%. The number of employed totaled 11,000, up 500 workers from last month's level.



HARDIN - RED LODGE LMA (Cont.)

The jobless rolls fell 100 in March, bringing the four-county total to 800 persons, or 6.9% of the labor force. This ratio nearly equaled that of the state as a whole, which posted a 7% rate in March. Among the four counties, Big Horn noted the highest unemployment rate at 9.2%, followed by Carbon County with 6.8%, and Stillwater and Sweet Grass Counties with rates of 4.9% and 3.5%, respectively.

The unemployment problems appear concentrated in Carbon and Big Horn Counties, as reflected by their higher unemployment rates.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A total of 10 new firms entered this four-county area during March, bringing the first quarter total to 41. This represents a very healthy increase from last year's comparable period, when only 24 new firms were formed in the area. Although not conclusive, new business formations provide an indication of the overall economic climate of a particular area. As such, the Hardin - Red Lodge area appears off to a year of general expansion, and if continued, this may provide some additional job opportunities for area workers.

In Red Lodge, the spring season has traditionally been a buffer period between the ski season and the summer camping and tourist season. During this off season, the retail and service industries usually experience a definite cut back in cash receipts. Despite good skiing conditions in nearly all other major Montana winter resorts, the area just outside of Red Lodge did not receive the usual volume of snow, which did have some negative impacts during the heart of the winter months. As such, area restaurant, motel-hotel and service stations, in particular, are hoping for a good tourist season. Much of the tourist business originates from the Red Lodge - Cooke City highway to Yellowstone Park.

In the four-county area, the agriculture industry is the center of activity. Spring planting and field preparation, as well as calving operations are of primary interest.

HAVRE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



The Havre LMA has enjoyed a much improved employment situation during the past month. The civilian labor force increased by 100 persons, reaching a level of 12,900 in March, while the number of people employed rose to 12,200 from its previous total of 11,900. Concurrently, the ranks of the unemployed declined by 200, leaving 700 individuals on the jobless rolls.

These shifts in the civilian labor force yielded a calculated rate of unemployment of 5.5% in March. That figure represents a very healthy 1.1 percentage point drop in the unemployment rate from February's level, and .5 percentage point drop from the rate recorded in March 1977.

HAVRE LMA (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The number of new businesses registered for the area in March was 14. Although this is no improvement over February's total, the number of new firms established to date this year remains ahead of the cumulative total for the first quarter of 1977. With 40 new businesses formed during the first three months this year, a 14% increase has been realized from the comparable period last year.

At the present time, reports indicate that the trade and service sectors of industry are experiencing the highest activity levels. Other sectors have remained hampered by lingering snow and frost in past weeks. This situation should begin to change rapidly however, with the construction industry and oil field exploration being the most likely beneficiaries of more moderate weather.

HELENA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



March's jobless rate fell to 6.1%, following last month's 6.5% rate for this three-county labor market area. This compares favorably with the statewide average rate of 7%, as well as with March a year ago, when 6.3% of this area's labor force was out of work. The areawide average rate was heavily influenced by Lewis and Clark County's 5.9% unemployment ratio. The situation was somewhat worse in Broadwater and Jefferson Counties, which noted rates of 6.7% and 7.4%, respectively.

The labor force stood at 26,000 in March, up 1,100 from March one year ago, or on a percentage basis, a 4.4% increase. The employment ranks also experienced growth, expanding by 400 from last month and 1,100 from a year ago, with 24,400 persons being employed in the LMA during March.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The usually stable Helena job market received several blows during March, with the announcement that two federal government offices are closing their Helena offices. The Federal Housing Administration is transferring its services to Denver, affecting 19 positions. In addition, the Internal Revenue Service is moving their office personnel to Seattle. This will affect about 90 workers, of which nearly half may end up looking for work in Helena. In the retail sector, a major downtown department store is closing its doors, and about 30 workers will be laid off.

On the positive side, a chain grocery concern completed construction of its new facility, opening in late March with a staff of 70. Late in March, initial work started on a new building for another major grocery store chain. This will involve a move from the firm's present location at one of Helena's shopping centers. Other new establishments include a clothing store and a new pizza house.

The construction industry is moving into full swing as weather conditions permitted area contractors to begin excavating operations in the area. Work has started on several commercial projects, as well as many single family and multi-family residential dwellings.

HELENA LMA (Cont.)

The Helena building industry appears off to another good year, although there has been some concern expressed by local economists due to rising interest rates and a possible over supply of housing, especially in the upper priced market.

The agriculture industry has been seeking some workers, as spring field preparation and calving operations are well underway.

The Helena Job Service Office noted that the majority of the recently received openings have been for typists, key punch operators, and secretaries, although there have been some calls for various professional positions from the state government.

KALISPELL LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number of people in the Kalispell LMA civilian labor force grew by 1700 from February's total, reaching 34,300 in March. This increase was accompanied by a sizeable gain of 1,500 persons in the ranks of the employed, where 30,500 were holding jobs in March. Unfortunately, the job market was not able to fully absorb the expanding civilian labor force, and an increase of 200 individuals was recorded in the group of unemployed workers. That group now totals 3,800, yielding an area unemployment rate of 11.1% in March.

Although these figures show a mixed pattern on a month-to-month basis, they have shown consistent improvements over March 1977. Comparing this month with the same one last year reveals an 8.2% increase in the civilian labor force, a 10.5% increase in employment, and a 7.3% decline in the number of unemployed persons.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

All reports indicate a solid improvement trend is establishing itself in the Kalispell LMA economy at this time. Construction, in particular, is on the upswing, with prevailing mild weather enabling building projects to get underway. Similar situations have started to materialize in other parts of the state; however, this area should enjoy even greater activity levels if current conditions are an indication of the trend for 1978. Specifically, March building permits in the city of Kalispell have increased six-fold over February's eight. Furthermore, the total of 48 permits issued in March is among the highest of any single month in recent years, and should provide the construction sector with a welcome post-winter boost. In recent weeks the volume of business in the trade and service sectors has also started to rise, as has the number of requests for qualified employees in these industries. Another indication of increasing commerce in the labor area is provided by a count of new business formations. The total of 52 firms recorded in March compares well with February's 42. At 146, year-to-date formations are also slightly ahead of last year's first quarter tally of 138 new businesses.

In the agriculture sector, the calving season is well underway on area ranches and some increased demand for skilled hands has taken place. In addition, seed potato growers have been preparing to sort and ship the tubers to out-of-state farmers.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force rose to a level of 10,400 persons in March, an increase of 400 over the previous month. This represents a 4.0% rise over the 10,000 members of the civilian labor force recorded in March of 1977.

Employment also took a jump in March, moving to a total of 9,700 persons from the 9,200 level registered in February. This is a healthy increase of 4.3% over the 9,300 persons employed in March of last year.

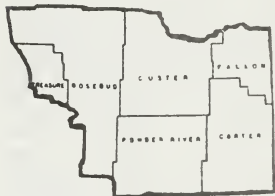
The unemployment rate continued its steady decline in March, to 6.9%. This follows a drop in the rate from 8.3% in January to 7.7% in February. The number of unemployed in the area now totals 700 persons.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Economic activity in the LMA is just beginning to rebound from the inclement winter weather. The sectors with the greatest demand for workers thus far have been agriculture and construction. The local job service office reports a heavy demand for ranch hands involved in calving and feeding operations. Construction employment is finally building up, with work on various housing projects in the area. The missile update program is also getting on track after being slowed down by deep snow and flooding.

New business firms in the area totaled nine during March, compared with ten during March of 1977. The year-to-date total lags behind last year's total, 23 to 30. One possible reason for this slow growth in new business firms may be the hard winter that was experienced in central Montana. The reader should be aware that new business firms are a partial indicator of economic conditions, but other variables must be taken into account to fully determine the direction of the local economy.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The Miles City LMA experienced a 5.7% jobless rate in March, one of the five lowest unemployment rates in the labor areas. The actual number of people on the unemployment rolls totaled 800 within the six-county area. Among individual areas, the degree of unemployment ranged from a low of 4.7% in Fallon County to a high of 6.4% in Custer and Rosebud Counties. It should be stated that the area's rate was slightly higher than March 1977's 5.6% jobless rate.

The labor force stood at 14,500, which is a slight decline (1.4%), from last year's level of 14,700. The employment ranks also reflected this negative growth trend, down 200 workers from March of last year. The number of persons employed in the area totaled 13,700.

MILES CITY LMA (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

With the advancement of spring and its warmer weather conditions, the building construction industry is again moving onto the center stage of this labor area. At this time, the main activities are concentrated on resuming the work that has been shut down because of the long hard winter, particularly excavating and concrete work. The highway construction industry remained dormant for the largest part of March, although by early April initial work activities were underway. Employment usually does not reach peak levels in this sector until early summer. The Miles City area has received a marked share of highway projects during the past several years, primarily on the East-West interstate highway running through its borders. This situation is not expected to dissipate to any major degree during 1978. The commuting construction workers provide economic stimulus to the local economies, with the restaurants, lodging places, service stations, and related establishments receiving the major benefits.

New business formations, an indicator of overall economic conditions, remain about the same as the number recorded at this time one year ago. A total of 37 new firms entered the six counties of this labor area during the first quarter of 1978, compared with 36 firms for the same period a year ago.

The Miles City Job Service office reports that labor supply is generally meeting demand, with the exception of a shortage of waiter-waitresses and cooks in the retail sector, and nurse's aides in the service industry.

MISSOULA LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor pool reached 46,100 persons in March. This amounts to an expansion of 2,300 in the number of potential workers since March of 1977. Those holding jobs totaled 42,400 workers in March, an increase of 400 from last month, and 2,700 from March 1977. During the one year interval this four-county area's employment ranks grew by 6.8%. This type of growth is a very good indicator of a healthy business climate.

The problem remains that the available supply of labor still exceeds job orders placed by area employers. March's jobless rate hit 8%, a mark which is still relatively high, in light of the fact that the economy is nearing the third year of recovery from the 1974-1975 recession.

Missoula County noted the lowest rate in the LMA at 7.1%, which was just slightly above the statewide average rate of 7%. The situation was not as good in the other three counties, which experienced rates above 9%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

As stated in last month's issue, the construction industry seems to highlight the economic scene in the Missoula area. Several major projects are still underway, including the final stages of work on the new shopping center at the southern end of the city, and the \$2 million expansion at one of Missoula's hospitals.

MISSOULA LMA (Cont.)

Building permits, an indication of upcoming projects, totaled 92 for February, with a valuation exceeding \$2.5 million. Single family dwellings accounted for the bulk of the permits, although a \$250,000 office building, 16 duplexes and one 22 unit apartment complex are included in the total. Despite negative building trends early in 1978 in many parts of the state, the Missoula area seems to be off to an even better year than last.

Area logging operations were at a near standstill during March, because of the "spring breakup". Due to the snow runoff, loggers were not able to gain access to the timber sites. Spokesmen for several area firms forecasted that most of the operations will be back to normal sometime in early April.

The retail sector noted some activity during the past month, with the opening of two new restaurants in Missoula. This industry should provide many new job opportunities by summer's end, with the opening of the new shopping mall. The complex will be one of the state's largest shopping centers and will include several major department stores.

SHELBY - CUT BANK LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The March civilian labor force stands at 16,900 persons, an increase of 5.6% over the previous year. This 900 persons increase is reflected totally in the ranks of the employed as there was no change in the number of unemployed persons which stood at 1,100. The unemployment rate has continued to show seasonal improvement, with a drop from 7.9% to 6.6% - a decrease of 200 persons from last month.

With the exception of Glacier County with a 10.8% rate, the other four counties had unemployment rates below 6%; Chouteau - 4.1%, Pondera - 4.9%, Teton - 4.9% and Toole - 5.6%. At 6.6%, the rate for the LMA is below that of the statewide rate of 7.0%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

There were 20 new businesses formed in the past month in the five-county area. One third of the new businesses formed this month were in Glacier County.

The demand for farm hands is increasing as spring seeding is getting into full swing. The farmers still hope to see some sign of help in the form of higher crop support from Washington.

As the demand for gas and oil grows, this industry should be of greater importance in this LMA. Exploration for gas and oil wells continues, as Western Montana's major utility puts more emphasis on the use of natural gas for home heating.

Hiring has been spotty. As the tourist season approaches, new job opportunities have been concentrated in the service area. These include cooks, bartenders, and motel workers.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

MARCH 1978

<u>Program</u>	<u>New Enrollees</u>	<u>Job Placements</u>	<u>End of Month Enrollment</u>
WIN	326	141	2367
CETA-CEP	63	52	253
CETA-CLASSROOM	142	23	425
CETA-OJT	76	41	159
JOB CORPS	59	21	467
PSE TITLE II	73	34	443
PSE TITLE VI	87	49	834
PSE TITLE VI "A"	147	39	692
CETA - AWE	151	21	104

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.^{1/} (1967 = 100)

Percent Change From:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Feb. 1978</u>	<u>Jan. 1978</u>	<u>Feb. 1978</u>
All Items	188.4	.7	6.4

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED^{2/}

MARCH 1978

<u>Social Characteristics</u>	<u>Percent of Total Covered Unemployment</u>
Non-White	6.1 %
Female	23.1 %
Youth	9.5 %
Over 45	23.7 %

^{1/} The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

Table 1
MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

RESIDENCE DATA

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						Montana	U. S.	
1976								
January	316.8	284.0	263.1	20.9	32.8	10.4	8.8	*
February	317.8	287.0	263.9	23.1	30.8	9.7	8.2	*
March	325.7	295.1	267.0	28.1	30.6	9.4	8.1	*
April	333.4	307.8	272.8	35.0	25.6	7.7	7.4	*
May	336.4	314.0	277.7	36.3	22.4	6.6	6.7	*
June	353.9	325.2	283.5	41.7	28.7	8.1	8.0	.1
July	362.2	335.8	290.9	44.9	26.4	7.3	7.8	.1
August	364.9	339.7	291.3	48.4	25.2	6.9	7.6	.1
September	351.5	329.9	291.9	38.0	21.6	6.2	7.4	.1
October	340.6	319.7	287.2	32.5	20.9	6.1	7.2	.1
November	338.6	315.4	287.2	28.2	23.2	6.9	7.4	.1
December	335.8	311.1	286.7	24.4	24.7	7.3	7.4	.1
1976 Avg.	339.8	313.7	280.3	33.4	26.1	7.7	7.7	.1
1977								
January	324.5	296.9	274.3	22.6	27.6	8.5	8.3	.1
February	328.1	301.3	276.5	24.8	26.8	8.2	8.5	.1
March	336.3	310.8	280.9	29.9	25.5	7.6	7.9	.1
April	344.7	322.8	285.8	37.0	21.9	6.3	6.9	.1
May	349.0	329.7	291.5	38.2	19.3	5.5	6.4	.1
June	365.1	343.9	300.4	43.5	21.2	5.8	7.5	.2
July	373.6	353.0	306.5	46.5	20.6	5.5	7.0	3.3
August	380.9	361.0	311.2	49.8	19.9	5.2	6.8	.2
September	364.8	346.7	307.9	38.8	18.1	5.0	6.6	.1
October	354.9	337.1	304.1	33.0	17.8	5.0	6.3	.5
November	350.7	331.0	302.6	28.4	19.7	5.6	6.4	.1
December	346.4	326.0	301.6	24.4	20.4	5.9	6.0	.2
1977 Avg.	351.6	330.0	295.3	34.7	21.6	6.1	7.0	.4
1978								
January	340.5	314.9	292.4	22.5	25.6	7.5	7.0	.2
February	342.8	317.1	292.6	24.5	25.7	7.5	6.9	.2
March	349.5	325.1	295.7	29.4	24.4	7.0	6.6	.2
April	357.0	335.8	299.7	36.1	21.2	5.9		.1
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
<u>1976</u>								
January	30.5	27.4	26.6	.8	3.1	10.3	10.4	*
February	30.6	27.7	26.8	.9	2.9	9.5	9.7	*
March	31.8	28.8	27.7	1.1	3.0	9.5	9.4	*
April	32.2	29.7	28.3	1.4	2.5	7.8	7.7	*
May	32.7	30.4	29.0	1.4	2.3	7.1	6.6	*
June	34.3	31.1	29.5	1.6	3.2	9.4	8.1	*
July	33.9	31.0	29.2	1.8	2.9	8.4	7.3	*
August	34.0	31.4	29.5	1.9	2.6	7.7	6.9	*
September	33.0	30.9	29.4	1.5	2.1	6.5	6.2	*
October	33.0	30.8	29.5	1.3	2.2	6.7	6.1	*
November	33.1	30.8	29.7	1.1	2.3	6.9	6.9	*
December	31.0	28.8	27.8	1.0	2.2	7.0	7.3	*
1976 Avg.	32.5	29.9	28.6	1.3	2.6	8.0	7.7	*
<u>1977</u>								
January	32.2	29.6	28.7	.9	3.0	8.0	8.5	*
February	32.3	30.1	29.1	1.0	2.2	6.8	8.2	*
March	33.1	30.9	29.7	1.2	2.2	6.7	7.6	*
April	33.8	32.0	30.5	1.5	1.8	5.4	6.3	*
May	34.4	32.6	31.1	1.5	1.8	5.2	5.5	*
June	35.7	33.7	32.0	1.7	2.2	5.6	5.8	*
July	35.8	33.8	32.0	1.8	2.0	5.6	5.5	.8
August	35.8	33.8	31.8	2.0	2.0	5.6	5.2	*
September	35.6	33.6	32.1	1.5	2.0	5.5	5.0	*
October	35.6	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.0	5.7	5.0	.4
November	34.6	32.8	31.7	1.1	1.8	5.3	5.6	*
December	34.5	32.4	31.4	1.0	2.1	6.0	5.9	*
1977 Avg.	34.4	32.4	31.0	1.4	2.0	5.9	6.1	.1
<u>1978</u>								
January	34.1	31.6	30.7	.9	2.5	7.5	7.5	*
February	34.1	31.4	30.4	1.0	2.7	7.8	7.5	*
March	34.4	32.1	30.9	1.2	2.3	6.7	7.0	*
April	35.0	33.1	31.7	1.4	1.9	5.4	5.9	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.^{3/} Under 50.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

Table 111

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

RESIDENCE DATA

Civilian Labor Force
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
1976								
January	45.8	42.1	41.1	1.0	3.7	8.1	10.4	*
February	45.8	42.5	41.4	1.1	3.3	7.1	9.7	*
March	46.7	43.3	42.0	1.3	3.4	7.3	9.4	*
April	49.2	46.3	44.7	1.6	2.9	5.8	7.7	*
May	48.8	46.5	44.8	1.7	2.3	4.7	6.6	*
June	51.2	47.7	45.8	1.9	3.5	6.8	8.1	*
July	51.0	47.9	45.8	2.1	3.1	6.2	7.3	*
August	50.6	47.7	45.5	2.2	2.9	5.7	6.9	*
September	51.3	48.8	47.1	1.7	2.5	4.8	6.2	*
October	50.4	48.0	46.5	1.5	2.4	4.6	6.1	*
November	50.5	48.0	46.7	1.3	2.5	4.9	6.9	*
December	50.6	47.8	46.7	1.1	2.8	5.6	7.3	*
1976 Avg.	49.3	46.4	44.9	1.5	2.9	5.9	7.7	*
1977								
January	49.3	46.1	45.1	1.0	3.2	6.5	8.5	*
February	49.7	46.7	45.6	1.1	3.0	6.1	8.2	*
March	50.5	47.8	46.4	1.4	2.7	5.4	7.6	*
April	51.2	48.9	47.2	1.7	2.3	4.5	6.3	*
May	51.7	49.5	47.7	1.8	2.2	4.2	5.5	*
June	52.3	50.1	48.1	2.0	2.2	4.2	5.8	*
July	53.0	50.8	48.7	2.1	2.2	4.1	5.5	.1
August	53.5	51.3	49.0	2.3	2.2	4.0	5.2	.1
September	54.0	51.9	50.1	1.8	2.1	3.9	5.0	.1
October	53.0	50.9	49.4	1.5	2.1	4.0	5.0	.1
November	52.7	50.6	49.3	1.3	2.1	3.9	5.6	.1
December	52.2	50.0	48.9	1.1	2.2	4.2	5.9	.1
1977 Avg.	51.9	49.5	47.9	1.6	2.4	4.6	6.1	*
1978								
January	50.1	47.3	46.3	1.0	2.8	5.8	7.5	.1
February	50.8	48.0	46.9	1.1	2.8	5.6	7.5	.1
March	51.4	48.5	47.2	1.3	2.9	5.7	7.0	.1
April	51.6	49.3	47.6	1.7	2.3	4.5	5.9	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

MARCH 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Mar. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1977	Net Changes to Current Month	
				Feb. 1978	Mar. 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	349.5	342.8	336.3	6.7	13.2
EMPLOYED PERSONS	325.1	317.1	310.8	8.0	14.3
Persons Employed in Agriculture	29.4	24.5	29.9	4.9	-5
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	24.4	25.7	25.5	-1.3	-1.1
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	7.0	7.5	7.6	-5	-6
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/}	5.8	6.0	6.4	-2	-6
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data) ..	264.3	262.1	251.0	2.2	13.3
<u>MANUFACTURING</u>	23.4	23.5	23.6	-1	-2
Durable Goods	15.1	15.1	15.1	0	0
24 Lumber and Wood Products	8.8	8.8	8.8	0	0
33 Primary Metal Industries	3.3	3.3	3.3	0	0
Other Durable Goods	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0
Nondurable Goods	8.3	8.4	8.5	-1	-2
20 Food and Kindred Products	3.7	3.9	3.9	-2	-2
27 Printing and Publishing	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	1.0	1.0	1.1	0	-1
Other Nondurable Goods	1.5	1.4	1.4	.1	.1
<u>MINING</u>	6.4	6.4	5.8	0	-6
10 Metal Mining	2.1	2.1	2.2	0	-1
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining ..	1.6	1.6	1.4	0	-2
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	2.7	2.7	2.2	0	-5

<u>CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION</u>	13.6	13.3	12.5	.3	1.1
15 General Building Contractors	4.4	4.4	4.2	0	.2
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	3.4	3.1	3.5	.3	-1
17 Special Trade Contractors	5.8	5.8	4.8	0	1.0
<u>TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES</u>	20.9	20.8	19.6	.1	1.3
40 Railroad Transportation	6.3	6.3	6.2	0	.1
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	6.2	6.2	5.9	0	.3
48 & 49 Comm., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services ..	8.4	8.3	7.5	.1	.9
<u>WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE</u>	65.5	65.3	62.9	1.2	3.6
Wholesale Trade	17.2	17.0	15.1	.2	2.1
Retail Trade	48.3	48.3	47.8	1.0	1.5
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories ..	7.7	7.7	7.5	0	.2
54 Food Stores	7.2	7.1	6.8	.1	.4
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	7.3	7.3	8.0	0	-.7
58 Eating and Drinking Places	18.0	17.1	16.3	.9	1.7
59, 60, 61 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc. ..	9.1	9.1	9.3	0	-1
<u>FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE</u>	11.9	11.8	10.9	.1	1.0
<u>SERVICES</u>	48.3	48.1	47.1	.2	1.2
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	6.5	6.5	5.3	0	1.2
72 Personal Services	2.6	2.6	2.4	0	.2
80 Medical and other Health Services	15.9	15.9	15.0	0	.9
Other Services	23.3	23.1	24.4	.2	-1.1
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	73.3	72.9	68.6	.4	4.7
91 Federal Government	13.9	13.8	13.1	.1	.8
92 State Colleges and Universities	8.9	8.9	9.1	0	-.2
92 Other State Government	11.2	11.2	11.0	0	.2
93 Local Education	25.6	25.3	22.8	.3	2.8
93 Other Local Government	13.7	13.7	12.6	0	1.1

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

Table V
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Employment by Industry

MARCH 1978
in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Net Changes to Current Month from:				
	Mar. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	34.4	34.1	33.1	.3	1.3
EMPLOYED PERSONS	32.1	31.4	30.9	.7	1.2
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.2	1.0	1.2	.2	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.3	2.7	2.2	-.4	.1
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	6.7	7.8	6.7	-1.1	0
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/} ..	6.0	7.0	5.9	-1.0	.1
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	29.5	29.1	28.4	.4	1.1
Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.8	0	-.2
Contract Construction	1.6	1.4	1.8	.2	-.2
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	1.7	1.7	1.8	0	-.1
Trade	10.0	9.8	8.8	.2	1.2
Wholesale Trade	3.0	2.9	2.5	.1	.5
Retail Trade	7.0	6.9	6.3	.1	.7
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	.1
Services and Mining	6.5	6.5	6.3	0	.2
Government	6.2	6.2	6.1	0	.1
Federal Government	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	.1
State and Local Government	4.1	4.1	4.1	0	0

^{1/} Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships;
includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

^{2/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Table VI
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

MARCH 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Net Changes to Current Month from:				
	MAR. 1978	FEB. 1978	MAR. 1977	FEB. 1978	MAR. 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	51.4	50.8	50.5	.6	.9
EMPLOYED PERSONS	48.5	48.0	47.8	.5	.7
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.3	1.1	1.4	.2	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.9	2.8	2.7	.1	.2
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	5.7	5.6	5.4	.1	.3
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/} ..	4.8	4.6	4.5	.2	.3
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	42.7	42.5	41.6	.2	1.1
Manufacturing	3.3	3.5	3.5	-.2	-.2
Contract Construction	2.4	2.4	2.3	.0	.1
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	3.8	3.8	3.5	.0	.3
Trade	14.5	14.3	13.6	.2	.7
Wholesale Trade	5.5	5.4	4.7	.1	.8
Retail Trade	9.0	8.9	8.9	.1	.7
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2.1	2.1	2.0	.0	.7
Services and Mining	8.4	8.3	8.1	.1	.3
Government	8.2	8.1	8.6	.7	-.4
Federal Government	1.5	1.5	1.9	.7	-.4
State and Local Government	6.7	6.6	6.7	.1	.7

^{1/} Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships;
includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

^{2/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS^{1/}

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Jan. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1978	Jan. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1978	Jan. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1978	Jan. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1978
STATEWIDE	340.5	342.8	349.5	314.9	317.1	325.1	25.6	25.7	24.4	7.5	7.5	7.0
GREAT FALLS SMSA	34.1	34.1	34.4	31.6	31.4	32.1	2.5	2.7	2.3	7.5	7.8	6.7
BILLINGS SMSA	50.1	50.8	51.4	47.3	48.0	48.5	2.8	2.8	2.9	5.7	5.6	5.7
^{2/} BALANCE OF STATE ^{2/}	256.3	257.9	263.7	236.0	237.7	244.5	20.3	20.2	19.2	7.9	7.8	7.3
ANACONDA-BUTTE	33.5	33.9	33.8	30.7	31.0	31.2	2.8	2.9	2.6	8.2	8.7	7.7
BOZEMAN	24.3	24.6	26.0	22.7	23.0	24.6	1.6	1.6	1.4	6.4	6.3	5.6
GLASGOW	16.1	16.4	16.7	15.0	15.3	15.7	1.1	1.1	1.0	6.9	6.9	6.1
GLENDALE	13.6	13.6	14.1	12.9	12.9	13.3	.7	.7	.8	5.2	5.5	5.4
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.3	11.4	11.8	10.4	10.5	11.0	.9	.9	.8	7.9	7.9	6.9
HAVRE	12.6	12.8	12.9	11.8	11.9	12.2	.8	.9	.7	6.5	6.6	5.5
HELENA	25.6	25.7	26.0	23.9	24.0	24.4	1.7	1.7	1.6	6.5	6.5	6.1
KALISPELL	32.9	32.6	34.3	29.2	29.0	30.5	3.7	3.6	3.8	11.3	11.1	11.1
LEWISTOWN	9.8	10.0	10.4	9.0	9.2	9.7	.8	.8	.7	8.3	7.7	6.9
MILES CITY	14.4	14.7	14.5	13.5	13.8	13.7	.9	.9	.8	6.5	6.1	5.7
MISSOULA	46.0	45.8	46.1	42.0	42.0	42.4	4.0	3.8	3.7	8.6	8.4	8.0
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.2	16.4	16.9	14.9	15.1	15.8	1.3	1.3	1.1	8.2	7.9	6.6

^{1/} A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
^{2/} Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS^{1/}

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Mar. 1978	Mar. 1977	Percent Change 1977- 1978	Mar. 1978	Mar. 1977	Percent Change 1977- 1978	Mar. 1978	Mar. 1977	Net Change 1977- 1978	Mar. 1978	Mar. 1977	Net Change 1977- 1978
STATEWIDE	349.5	336.3	3.9	325.1	310.8	4.6	24.4	25.5	-1.1	7.0	7.6	-.6
GREAT FALLS SMSA	34.4	33.1	3.9	32.1	30.9	3.9	2.3	2.2	.1	6.7	6.7	0
BILLINGS SMSA	51.4	50.5	1.8	48.5	47.8	1.5	2.9	2.7	.2	5.7	5.4	.3
BALANCE OF STATE ^{2/}	263.7	252.7	4.4	244.5	232.1	5.3	19.2	20.6	-1.4	7.3	8.2	-.9
ANACONDA-BUTTE	33.8	33.5	.9	31.2	30.4	2.6	2.6	3.1	-.5	7.7	9.2	-1.5
BOZEMAN	26.0	24.1	7.9	24.6	22.4	9.8	1.4	1.7	-.3	5.6	7.3	-1.7
GLASGOW	16.7	16.4	1.8	15.7	15.3	2.6	1.0	1.1	-.1	6.1	6.7	-.6
GLENDALE	14.1	13.3	6.0	13.3	12.7	4.7	.8	.6	-.2	5.4	4.9	.5
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.8	11.6	1.7	11.0	10.8	1.9	.8	.8	0	6.9	6.6	.3
HAVRE	12.9	12.6	2.4	12.2	11.8	3.4	.7	.8	-.1	5.5	6.0	-.5
HELENA	26.0	24.9	4.4	24.4	23.3	4.7	1.6	1.6	0	6.1	6.3	-.2
KALISPELL	34.3	31.7	8.2	30.5	27.6	10.5	3.8	4.1	-.3	11.1	13.1	-2.0
LEWISTOWN	10.4	10.0	4.0	9.7	9.3	4.3	.7	.7	0	6.9	7.3	-.4
MILES CITY	14.5	14.7	-1.4	13.7	13.9	-1.4	.8	.8	0	5.7	5.6	.1
MISSOULA	46.1	43.8	5.3	42.4	39.7	6.8	3.7	4.1	-.4	8.0	9.4	-1.4
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.9	16.0	5.6	15.8	14.9	6.0	1.1	1.1	0	6.6	6.9	-.3

^{1/} A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.^{2/} Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

TABLE IX A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY MARCH 1978				PERCENT
COUNTY	CIVILIAN			RATE
STATEWIDE	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	7.0
	349498	325137	24361	
CASCADE	34429	32111	2318	6.7
YELLOWSTONE	51439	48517	2922	5.7
BEAVERHEAD	4139	3966	173	4.2
BIG HORN	4563	4144	419	9.2
BLAINE	2909	2686	223	7.7
BROADWATER	1424	1329	95	6.7
CARBON	3432	3197	235	6.8
CARTER	941	897	44	4.7
CHOUTEAU	2996	2872	124	4.1
CUSTER	5556	5202	354	6.4
DANIELS	1447	1390	57	3.9
DAWSON	5352	5072	280	5.2
DEER LODGE	6653	6128	525	7.9
FALLON	2119	2019	100	4.7
FERGUS	5455	5073	382	7.0
FLATHEAD	20392	18330	2062	10.1
GALLATIN	19708	18755	953	4.8
GARFIELD	808	780	28	3.5
GLACIER	4989	4451	538	10.8
GOLDEN VALLEY	450	412	38	8.4
GRANITE	979	878	101	10.3
HILL	8897	8459	438	4.9
JEFFERSON	2619	2426	193	7.4
JUDITH BASIN	1240	1127	113	9.1
LAKE	6565	6026	539	8.2
LEWIS AND CLARK	21917	20618	1299	5.9
LIBERTY	1139	1082	57	5.0
LINCOLN	7327	6115	1212	16.5
MC CONE	1458	1308	150	10.3
MADISON	2474	2381	93	3.8
MEAGHER	880	812	68	7.7
MINERAL	1826	1656	170	9.3
MISSOULA	33005	30649	2356	7.1
MUSSELSHELL	1660	1536	124	7.5
PARK	5435	5007	428	7.9
PETROLEUM	328	320	8	2.4
PHILLIPS	2469	2307	162	6.6
PONDERA	3395	3230	165	4.9
POWDER RIVER	1031	993	38	3.7
POWELL	3398	3172	226	6.7
PRAIRIE	943	896	47	5.0
RAVALLI	6766	6045	721	10.7
RICHLAND	4865	4635	230	4.7
ROOSEVELT	5574	5287	287	5.1
ROSEBUD	4327	4051	276	6.4
SANDERS	4520	4074	446	9.9
SHERIDAN	2473	2388	85	3.4
SILVER BOW	16186	14708	1478	9.1
STILLWATER	2175	2068	107	4.9
SWEET GRASS	1640	1583	57	3.5
TETON	2789	2652	137	4.9
TOOLE	2779	2623	156	5.6
TREASURE	528	508	20	3.8
VALLEY	4725	4306	419	8.9
WHEATLAND	1290	1232	58	4.5
WIBAUX	675	648	27	4.0

TABLE IX B
MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE, BY COUNTY FEBRUARY 1978

COUNTY STATEWIDE	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE 342812	EMPLOYMENT 317100	UNEMPLOYMENT 25712	PERCENT RATE 7.5
CASCADE	34088	31436	2652	7.8
YELLOWSTONE	50814	47987	2827	5.6
BEAVERHEAD	4136	3914	222	5.4
BIG HORN	4395	3979	416	9.5
BLAINE	2884	2620	264	9.2
BROADWATER	1429	1342	87	6.1
CARBON	3270	2993	277	8.5
CARTER	871	819	52	6.0
CHOUTEAU	2835	2718	117	4.1
CUSTER	5738	5369	369	6.4
DANIEL	1362	1316	46	3.4
DAWSON	5120	4826	294	5.7
DEER LODGE	6538	5906	632	9.7
FALLON	2065	1955	110	5.3
FERGUS	5249	4785	464	8.8
FLATHEAD	19870	17791	2079	10.5
GALLATIN	18590	17628	962	5.2
GARFIELD	791	764	27	3.4
GLACIER	4885	4271	614	12.6
GOLDEN VALLEY	418	394	24	5.7
GRANITE	962	862	100	10.4
HILL	8835	8326	509	5.8
JEFFERSON	2590	2395	195	7.5
JUDITH BASIN	1145	1035	110	9.6
LAKE	6056	5459	597	9.9
LEWIS AND CLARK	21640	20244	1396	6.5
LIBERTY	1063	991	72	6.8
LINCOLN	6635	5701	934	14.1
MC CONE	1289	1176	113	8.8
MADISON	2278	2185	93	4.1
MEAGHER	774	699	75	9.7
MINERAL	1603	1432	171	10.7
MISSOULA	33291	30871	2420	7.3
MUSSELSHELL	1606	1497	109	6.8
PAKE	5207	4701	506	9.7
PETROLEUM	299	290	9	3.0
PHILLIPS	2443	2282	161	6.6
PONDERA	3411	3184	227	6.7
POWDER RIVER	989	940	49	5.0
PONELL	3122	2927	195	6.2
PRAIRIE	938	880	58	6.2
RAVALLI	6486	5684	802	12.4
RICHLAND	4895	4675	220	4.5
ROOSEVELT	5715	5374	341	6.0
ROSEBUD	4544	4254	290	6.4
SANDERS	4499	4054	445	9.9
SHERIDAN	2257	2185	72	3.2
SILVER BOW	16872	15159	1713	10.2
STILLWATER	2326	2194	132	5.7
SWEET GRASS	1421	1339	82	5.8
TETON	2654	2459	195	7.3
TOOLE	2635	2485	150	5.7
TREASURE	463	442	21	4.5
VALLEY	4676	4154	522	11.2
WHEATLAND	1263	1207	56	4.4
WIBAUX	582	545	37	6.4

TABLE IX C

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE, BY COUNTY JANUARY 1978
CIVILIAN

COUNTY STATEWIDE	LABOR FORCE 340566	EMPLOYMENT 314923	UNEMPLOYMENT 25643	PERCENT RATE 7.5
CASCADE	34110	31562	2548	7.5
YELLOWSTONE	50141	47285	2856	5.7
BEAVERHEAD	4117	3918	199	4.8
BIG HORN	4391	3939	452	10.3
BLAINE	2852	2587	265	9.3
BROADWATER	1415	1323	92	6.5
CARBON	3249	2967	282	8.7
CARTER	853	785	68	8.0
CHOUTEAU	2790	2625	165	5.9
CUSTER	5725	5322	403	7.0
DANIELS	1362	1277	85	6.2
DAWSON	5010	4712	328	6.5
DEER LODGE	6330	5831	499	7.9
FALLON	2065	1969	96	4.6
FERGUS	5027	4630	397	7.9
FLATHEAD	20101	17980	2121	10.6
GALLATIN	18390	17415	975	5.3
GARFIELD	785	747	38	4.8
GLACIER	4861	4307	554	11.4
GOLDEN VALLEY	394	381	13	3.3
GRANITE	990	891	99	10.0
HILL	8738	8239	499	5.7
JEFFERSON	2593	2386	207	8.0
JUDITH BASIN	1137	990	147	12.9
LAKE	6039	5417	622	10.3
LEWIS AND CLARK	21580	20228	1352	6.3
LIBERTY	1026	968	58	5.7
LINCOLN	6705	5750	955	14.2
MC CONE	1370	1269	101	7.4
MADISON	2257	2117	140	6.2
MEAGHER	767	687	80	10.4
MINERAL	1500	1317	183	12.2
MISSOULA	33745	31192	2553	7.6
MUSSELSHELL	1661	1501	160	9.6
PARK	5105	4600	505	9.9
PETROLEUM	299	289	10	3.3
PHILLIPS	2364	2232	132	5.6
PONDERA	3339	3108	231	6.9
POWDER RIVER	967	916	51	5.3
POWELL	3006	2754	252	8.4
PRAIRIE	915	863	52	5.7
RAVALLI	6316	5524	792	12.5
RICHLAND	4959	4796	163	3.3
ROOSEVELT	5618	5285	333	5.9
ROSEBUD	4336	4044	292	6.7
SANDERS	4447	4014	433	9.7
SHERIDAN	2251	2159	92	4.1
SILVER BOW	16803	15233	1570	9.3
STILLWATER	2315	2200	115	5.0
SWEET GRASS	1358	1311	47	3.5
TETON	2634	2434	200	7.6
TOOLE	2649	2465	184	6.9
TREASURE	160	430	30	6.5
VALLEY	4507	4047	462	10.2
WHEATLAND	1263	1179	84	6.7
WIBAUX	547	526	21	3.8

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

MARCH 1978

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT				Net Change to Current Month From:	TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON				
	Mar. 1978 ^{1/}	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1977	8		10.4	March 1978		February 1978	
							Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	116.2	115.4	105.8	8	10.4	264.3	44.0	262.1	44.0	
Manufacturing	2.7	2.7	3.0	0	-3	23.4	11.6	23.5	11.6	
Mining	.3	.3	.3	0	0	6.4	5.2	6.4	5.2	
Contract Construction	1.1	1.1	.7	0	.4	13.6	7.9	13.3	8.0	
Transportation & Public Utilities .	3.8	3.8	3.5	0	.3	20.9	18.2	20.8	18.2	
Wholesale & Retail Trade	30.7	30.5	28.0	.2	2.7	66.5	46.2	65.3	46.7	
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	7.9	7.8	6.9	.1	1.0	11.9	66.4	11.8	66.1	
Services	33.5	33.3	31.1	.2	2.4	48.3	69.4	48.1	69.2	
Government ^{2/}	36.2	35.9	32.3	.3	3.9	73.3	49.3	72.9	49.2	

1/ Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1976 Benchmark.

Establishment Series began January 1974.

2/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor,
Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEWLE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1977

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Honagricultural Wage & Salary	103.2	103.8	105.8	107.0	105.9	109.8	109.2	111.7	114.2	113.9	114.6	114.8	109.5
Manufacturing	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.8	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	.8	.8	.7	.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade	26.8	26.7	28.0	28.8	29.0	30.6	30.2	30.2	30.6	31.1	31.4	31.0	29.5
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.2
Services	30.5	30.7	31.1	31.4	31.3	32.4	32.6	32.6	33.1	32.4	33.1	33.2	32.1
Government	31.3	31.8	32.3	32.3	30.8	31.6	30.9	32.9	34.6	34.4	34.4	35.0	32.7

1978

Honagricultural Wage & Salary	115.2	115.4	116.2
Manufacturing	2.7	2.7	2.7
Mining	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	1.1	1.1	1.1
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.8	3.8	3.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	30.7	30.5	30.7
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	7.6	7.8	7.9
Services	33.2	33.3	33.5
Government	35.8	35.9	36.2

1/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.
 Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1977 Benchmark.
 Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS*



Composite Index of
SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS
1972 = 100

1977

January	98.2
February	99.2
March	99.0
April	99.1
May	97.1
June	97.5
July	95.8
August	97.1
September	98.1
October	98.1
November	98.0
December	98.5

1978

January	100.0
February	
March	
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

Despite the slight downward revision of year-end values of the composite index, the trend of this indicator has remained on a generally positive course through the first month of 1978. After a small decline in November, the index has shown two consecutive months of increase, reaching 100.0 in January.

The components of this economic gauge exhibited mixed changes from December 1977 to January 1978. Although figures for accessions, layoffs, and building permits did not improve during this period, positive movements were realized in manufacturing average weekly hours, manufacturing employment, and weekly initial claims.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*

REAL SPENDABLE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS
OF PRIVATE NONAGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WORKERS
(1967) DOLLARS

Average Weekly Earnings

Real Spendable Earnings

1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978

220
200
180
160
140
120
100
80

* 2

Feb. 1978 Jan. 1978 Feb. 1977

Gross Average Weekly Earnings	\$209.10	\$205.19	\$174.65
Taxes Withheld	32.68	31.69	26.23
Spendable Earnings	176.42	173.50	148.42
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	82.79	80.83	64.61
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	93.63	92.67	83.81

Average
Weekly
Earnings

Real
Spendable
Earnings

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

1977

July	190.97	89.63
Aug.	200.28	92.96
Sep.	197.89	91.67
Oct.	202.65	93.29
Nov.	190.85	88.23
Dec.	210.37	95.44

1978

Jan.	205.19	92.67
Feb.	209.10	93.63
Mar.		
Apr.		
May		
June		
July		
Aug.		
Sep.		
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

The trend in real spendable earnings for the past twelve months has been a generally improving one. Some slight month-to-month fluctuations have taken place, but earnings levels have been fairly stable and on an upward course. After a substantial increase in December (to the highest level ever recorded for Montana), real spendable earnings declined somewhat in January. With February's subsequent modest rise to \$93.63, however, the indicator remains positive for the state at this time.

* Indicates last month of plotted data.

p: Preliminary

1/ Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/		
						Montana	U. S.	
1976								
January	336.1	308.3	276.2	32.1	27.8	8.3	7.8	*
February	336.5	309.8	276.6	33.2	26.7	7.9	7.6	*
March	336.5	309.2	276.1	33.1	27.3	8.1	7.5	*
April	337.3	311.7	277.4	34.3	25.6	7.6	7.5	*
May	336.7	311.1	277.9	33.2	25.6	7.6	7.3	*
June	334.1	307.7	274.3	33.4	26.4	7.9	7.5	.1
July	342.0	314.8	280.3	34.5	27.2	7.9	7.8	.1
August	342.8	314.6	280.7	33.9	28.2	8.2	7.9	.1
September	343.2	317.4	284.1	33.3	25.8	7.5	7.8	.1
October	342.5	317.9	284.7	33.2	24.6	7.2	7.9	.1
November	344.8	320.7	287.5	33.2	24.1	7.0	8.1	.1
December	344.2	320.4	286.8	33.6	23.8	6.9	7.8	.1
1976 Avg.	339.8	313.7	280.3	33.4	26.1	7.7	7.7	.1
1977								
January	344.0	321.3	287.6	33.7	22.7	6.6	7.4	.1
February	347.0	324.3	289.4	34.9	22.7	6.5	7.6	.1
March	347.3	325.1	290.0	35.1	22.2	6.4	7.4	.1
April	348.7	326.9	290.5	36.4	21.8	6.2	7.1	.1
May	349.7	327.1	292.0	35.1	22.6	6.5	7.1	.1
June	345.3	326.5	291.1	35.4	18.8	5.4	7.1	.2
July	353.5	332.1	295.9	36.2	21.4	6.1	6.9	3.3
August	358.8	336.0	300.6	35.4	22.8	6.4	7.0	.2
September	356.4	334.2	299.9	34.3	22.2	6.2	6.8	.1
October	356.5	335.1	301.4	33.7	21.4	6.0	6.8	.5
November	356.4	335.9	302.7	33.2	20.5	5.8	6.7	.1
December	354.5	335.0	301.5	33.5	19.5	5.5	6.4	.2
1977 Avg.	351.6	330.0	295.3	34.7	21.6	6.1	7.0	.4
1978								
January	360.2	339.4	305.8	33.6	20.8	5.8	6.3	.2
February	361.8	340.2	305.5	34.7	21.6	6.0	6.1	.2
March	360.7	339.7	305.1	34.6	21.0	5.8	6.2	.2
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table XIII
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
<u>1976</u>								
January	31.9	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.7	8.5	8.3	*
February	32.2	29.5	28.2	1.3	2.7	8.4	7.9	*
March	32.5	29.7	28.4	1.3	2.8	8.6	8.1	*
April	32.4	29.7	28.3	1.4	2.7	8.3	7.6	*
May	32.4	29.9	28.6	1.3	2.5	7.6	7.6	*
June	32.8	29.9	28.6	1.3	2.9	8.9	7.9	*
July	32.7	29.9	28.5	1.4	2.8	8.5	7.9	*
August	32.8	30.1	28.7	1.4	2.7	8.3	8.2	*
September	32.5	30.1	28.8	1.3	2.4	7.5	7.5	*
October	32.8	30.4	29.1	1.3	2.4	7.3	7.2	*
November	33.4	30.9	29.6	1.3	2.5	7.4	7.0	*
December	31.6	29.4	28.1	1.3	2.2	7.1	6.9	*
1976 Avg.	32.5	29.9	28.6	1.3	2.6	8.0	7.7	*
<u>1977</u>								
January	33.6	31.4	30.0	1.4	2.2	6.5	6.6	*
February	33.9	31.9	30.5	1.4	2.0	6.0	6.5	*
March	33.8	31.8	30.4	1.4	2.0	5.9	6.4	*
April	34.0	32.0	30.5	1.5	2.0	5.9	6.2	*
May	34.0	32.1	30.7	1.4	1.9	5.7	6.5	*
June	34.2	32.5	31.1	1.4	1.7	5.0	5.4	*
July	34.6	32.7	31.3	1.4	1.9	5.6	6.1	.8
August	34.7	32.6	31.2	1.4	2.1	6.0	6.4	*
September	35.1	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.2	6.4	6.2	*
October	35.4	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.2	6.2	6.0	.4
November	34.9	32.9	31.6	1.3	2.0	5.8	5.8	*
December	35.1	33.0	31.7	1.3	2.1	6.1	5.5	*
1977 Avg.	34.4	32.4	31.0	1.4	2.0	5.9	6.1	.1
<u>1978</u>								
January	35.5	33.3	31.9	1.4	2.2	6.1	5.8	*
February	35.8	33.3	31.9	1.4	2.5	7.0	6.0	*
March	35.1	33.0	31.6	1.4	2.1	6.0	5.8	*
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary

Table XIV
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent		
						County	State	
1976								
January	47.3	44.2	42.8	1.4	3.1	6.6	8.3	*
February	47.8	44.9	43.4	1.5	2.9	6.1	7.9	*
March	48.1	45.1	43.6	1.5	3.0	6.3	8.1	*
April	49.7	46.7	45.1	1.6	3.0	6.0	7.6	*
May	48.8	46.0	44.5	1.5	2.8	5.8	7.6	*
June	49.3	46.2	44.6	1.6	3.1	6.3	7.9	*
July	49.4	46.3	44.7	1.6	3.1	6.2	7.9	*
August	49.4	46.4	44.8	1.6	3.0	6.1	8.2	*
September	50.9	48.1	46.6	1.5	2.8	5.5	7.5	*
October	50.0	47.3	45.8	1.5	2.7	5.5	7.2	*
November	50.4	47.6	46.1	1.5	2.8	5.5	7.0	*
December	50.6	47.8	46.3	1.5	2.8	5.6	6.9	*
1976 Avg.	49.3	46.4	44.9	1.5	2.9	5.9	7.7	*
1977								
January	50.8	48.2	46.7	1.5	2.6	5.2	6.6	*
February	51.6	49.0	47.4	1.6	2.6	5.1	6.5	*
March	52.1	49.7	48.1	1.6	2.4	4.5	6.4	*
April	51.7	49.3	47.6	1.7	2.4	4.6	6.2	*
May	51.7	49.0	47.4	1.6	2.7	5.2	6.5	*
June	50.4	48.6	47.0	1.6	1.8	3.6	5.4	*
July	51.4	49.3	47.7	1.6	2.1	4.1	6.1	.1
August	52.3	50.0	48.3	1.7	2.3	4.4	6.4	.1
September	53.6	51.2	49.6	1.6	2.4	4.5	6.2	.1
October	52.7	50.2	48.7	1.5	2.5	4.7	6.0	.1
November	52.7	50.3	48.8	1.5	2.4	4.5	5.8	.1
December	52.1	49.9	48.4	1.5	2.2	4.2	5.5	.1
1977 Avg.	51.9	49.5	47.9	1.6	2.4	4.6	6.1	*
1978								
January	51.7	49.4	47.9	1.5	2.3	4.4	5.8	.1
February	52.8	50.4	48.8	1.6	2.4	4.6	6.0	.1
March	52.9	50.4	48.8	1.6	2.5	4.8	5.8	.1
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS For Private Nonagricultural Industries

MARCH 1978

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1977	Mar. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1977	Mar. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1977
TOTAL PRIVATE	\$208.39	\$209.10	\$174.94	35.5	35.5	35.2	\$5.87	\$5.89	\$4.97
MANUFACTURING	320.54	323.79	246.84	42.4	43.0	40.4	7.56	7.53	6.11
Durable Goods	322.07	329.18	246.19	43.0	43.6	41.1	7.49	7.55	5.99
Primary Metal Industries	316.08	322.97	274.06	38.5	39.1	38.6	8.21	8.26	7.10
Nondurable Goods	316.93	312.42	247.81	41.0	41.6	38.6	7.73	7.51	6.42
Food and Kindred Products	258.82	254.04	218.50	42.5	43.8	38.0	6.09	5.80	5.75
MINING	342.66	336.15	314.22	40.6	40.5	43.4	8.44	8.30	7.24
Metal Mining	373.74	380.15	290.48	39.3	40.1	40.4	9.51	9.48	7.19
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	443.89	446.88	327.60	33.4	32.5	39.0	13.29	13.75	8.36
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	298.39	297.66	285.66	41.1	41.0	41.4	7.26	7.26	6.90
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	291.98	291.98	254.92	42.5	42.5	40.4	6.87	6.87	6.31
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	157.44	158.58	143.55	32.8	32.9	33.0	4.80	4.82	4.35
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	143.17	144.14	126.91	36.9	36.4	37.0	3.88	3.96	3.43
SERVICES	132.80	132.80	109.07	33.2	33.2	29.4	4.00	4.00	3.71

Data for current month are preliminary.

Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.

Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES
In Manufacturing and Mining Industries
(per 100 employees)

FEBRUARY 1978

SEPARATION RATES

	ACCESSION RATES				SEPARATION RATES				Layoffs	
	Total		New Hires		Total		Quits			
	Feb. 1978	Jan. 1978	Feb. 1978	Jan. 1978	Feb. 1978	Jan. 1978	Feb. 1978	Jan. 1978	Feb. 1978	Jan. 1978
	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1977	1977
MANUFACTURING										
Durable Goods	1.8	2.4	2.5	1.2	1.3	1.8	2.4	3.5	3.1	
Primary Metal Industries	2.4	2.6	2.4	1.6	1.1	1.7	1.3	4.1	2.4	
Nondurable Goods	1.2	.7	2.5	1.2	0	1.1	.3	4.2	1.6	
	.8	2.0	2.7	.6	1.6	2.0	4.6	2.3	4.3	
MINING										
Metal Mining	.2	1.2	1.1	0	.8	.4	2.7	3.4	3.0	
	.7	.9	.6	0	.1	*	2.9	5.6	2.0	
							1.0	.8	2.2	
							.1	2.0	2.4	
							.1	.3	.5	
							1.1	2.0	2.4	
							3.3	*	.5	
							.1	1.4	.2	
							.2	4.3	.6	

* Less than .05.
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1969.

TABLE XVII
NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA
BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

<u>Industry</u>	<u>MAR. 1978</u>	<u>MAR. 1977</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	
			<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	43	47	112	94
MINING	6	9	18	39
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	91	93	216	200
MANUFACTURING	19	20	55	41
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	14	14	52	41
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	127	104	336	285
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	39	59	134	123
SERVICES	114	140	363	367
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	3	3	7	19
STATE TOTAL	456	489	1293	1209

TABLE XVIII
NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA
BY LABOR MARKET AREA

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS					NEW BUSINESS FIRMS				
Areas	MAR.	MAR.	Year to Date		Areas	MAR.	MAR.	Year to Date	
	1978	1977	1978	1977		1978	1977	1978	1977
STATE OF MONTANA	456	489	1293	1209	HAVRE LMA	14	18	40	35
GREAT FALLS SMSA	38	70	116	146	Blaine	4	2	8	5
BILLINGS SMSA	75	67	216	188	Hill	6	11	22	18
					Liberty	4	5	10	12
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	31	35	92	100	HELENA LMA	40	42	102	90
Beaverhead	5	4	14	13	Broadwater	2	4	3	5
Deer Lodge	1	1	9	2	Jefferson	2	4	9	6
Granite	1	3	4	3	Lewis and Clark	36	34	90	79
Madison	7	6	16	12	KALISPELL LMA	52	64	146	138
Powell	3	5	10	8	Flathead	39	48	102	85
Silver Bow	14	16	39	62	Lake	5	9	26	30
BOZEMAN LMA	40	42	117	124	Lincoln	8	7	18	23
Gallatin	33	38	94	97	LEWISTOWN LMA	9	10	23	30
Meagher	0	0	2	2	Fergus	8	5	15	21
Park	7	4	21	25	Golden Valley	0	0	0	1
GLASGOW LMA	9	4	27	28	Judith Basin	0	1	0	1
Daniels	0	0	2	2	Musselshell	1	4	4	6
Phillips	0	1	4	2	Petroleum	0	0	1	0
Roosevelt	5	0	10	4	Wheatland	0	0	3	1
Sheridan	1	0	3	5	MILES CITY LMA	17	13	37	36
Valley	3	3	8	15	Carter	2	0	4	3
GLENDIVE LMA	23	20	48	31	Custer	2	9	9	19
Dawson	4	7	13	9	Fallon	3	0	4	3
Garfield	4	1	4	3	Powder River	2	0	4	0
McCone	2	0	3	0	Rosebud	8	3	16	9
Prairie	2	4	6	7	Treasure	0	1	0	2
Richland	11	8	22	11	MISSOULA LMA	77	63	224	170
Wibaux	0	0	0	1	Mineral	1	1	4	1
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	10	10	41	24	Missoula	56	42	167	126
Big Horn	3	2	14	8	Ravalli	14	13	38	31
Carbon	5	8	16	10	Sanders	6	7	15	12
Stillwater	1	0	4	5	SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	21	31	64	69
Sweet Grass	1	0	7	1	Chouteau	2	6	9	8
					Glacier	7	3	19	7
					Pondera	6	6	14	21
					Teton	0	1	8	6
					Toole	6	15	14	27

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified.* Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

** If sufficient wage credits have been secured by a claimant from sources other than insured employment, he may be eligible for benefits which are financed wholly or partially from federal funds.*

TABLE XIX

DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

MARCH 1978	INTRASTATE	
COUNTY	NO. OF PAYS	AMT. OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	359	28,432.54
BIG BURN	697	49,703.74
BUTTE	415	31,774.21
CHANDLER	181	13,941.52
CARSON	632	40,392.16
CARTER	56	5,669.40
CASCADE	7,394	417,513.95
CHUTEAU	165	10,477.00
CUSTER	729	58,489.85
DANIELS	121	8,437.28
JAWSON	463	36,693.71
DEER LODGE	1,435	113,281.79
FALLON	180	12,173.00
FERGUS	841	63,692.63
FLATHEAD	4,474	313,524.72
GALLATIN	2,278	166,906.71
GARFIELD	41	3,247.00
GLACIER	1,145	98,709.22
GOLDEN VALLEY	33	1,527.00
GRANITE	191	14,812.50
HILL	894	68,257.50
JEFFERSON	355	30,806.52
JUDITH BASIN	169	13,485.78
LAKE	1,042	75,679.21
LEWIS & CLARK	2,918	223,027.44
LIBERTY	106	8,056.00
LINCOLN	2,442	193,962.95
MADISON	103	8,300.00
MCCONE	262	18,491.21
MEAGHER	113	9,347.35
MINERAL	291	23,167.05
MISSOULA	5,060	349,435.67
MUSSELSHELL	251	19,338.00
PARK	932	63,018.37
PETROLEUM	10	1,040.00
PHILLIPS	309	21,963.00
PONDERA	295	22,736.00
POWDER RIVER	46	4,511.00
POWELL	494	37,572.09
PRAIRIE	112	10,368.00
RAVALLI	1,354	89,294.35
RICHLAND	392	29,887.34
ROOSEVELT	436	31,034.60
ROSBUD	556	46,344.83
SANDERS	920	72,790.99
SHERIDAN	135	10,846.56
SILVER BOW	3,770	302,019.19
STILLWATER	260	21,165.16
SWEETGRASS	64	5,509.00
TITON	264	19,031.50
TOOLE	326	25,933.28
TREASURE	37	3,786.00
VALLEY	721	50,343.81
WHEATLAND	95	7,695.00
WIBAUX	30	2,389.00
YELLOWSTONE	6,713	525,556.63
TOTAL FOR STATE	49,862	3,913,544.51
INTERSTATE	2,120	166,367.13
TOTAL	45 51,882	4,079,911.64

TABLE XX

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

JANUARY THROUGH MARCH COUNTY	NO. OF PAYS	INTRASTATE AMT. OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	1,163	71,530.28
BIG HORN	1,774	146,514.38
BLAINE	1,204	93,339.05
BROADWATER	483	37,931.80
CARBON	1,451	116,117.15
CARTER	239	20,162.40
CASCADE	13,449	1,194,985.04
CHOCUTEAU	460	30,830.70
CUSTER	2,220	179,116.98
DANIELS	291	21,370.29
DAWSON	1,412	113,429.38
DEER LODGE	4,040	331,531.13
FALLON	535	36,420.00
FERGUS	2,586	198,062.45
FLATHEAD	11,359	437,485.06
GALLATIN	5,821	438,362.68
GARFIELD	139	10,721.63
GLACIER	2,964	233,772.31
GOLDEN VALLEY	72	4,686.00
GRANITE	473	35,353.00
HILL	2,607	220,449.99
JEFFERSON	1,128	98,238.32
JUDITH BASIN	583	50,886.69
LAKE	3,196	234,676.69
LEWIS & CLARK	4,501	677,106.91
LIBERTY	275	22,694.00
LINCOLN	4,863	353,976.50
MADISON	333	27,445.00
MCCONE	537	39,503.45
MCAGHER	349	28,497.44
MINE RAL	855	69,974.75
MISSOULA	13,204	954,449.33
MUSSELSHELL	693	57,321.80
PARK	2,414	174,976.93
PETROLEUM	25	2,579.00
PHILLIPS	767	55,735.25
PONDERA	894	74,257.50
POWDER RIVER	111	11,220.00
POWELL	1,311	97,934.88
PRAIRIE	320	29,678.00
RAVALLI	3,757	259,907.79
RICHLAND	836	69,080.47
ROOSEVELT	1,149	78,505.74
ROSEBUD	1,539	128,317.41
SANDERS	2,547	202,734.99
SHERIDAN	339	25,331.56
SILVER BOW	10,635	852,530.00
STILLWATER	603	55,416.92
SPRING TERRACE	190	14,981.00
TETON	782	59,052.36
TIDWELL	923	72,141.31
TREASURE	129	13,503.00
VALLEY	3,267	172,150.07
WHEATLAND	232	22,426.50
WYDAUX	70	5,939.00
YELLOWSTONE	17,356	1,391,709.83
TOTAL FOR STATE	147,690	10,850,635.89
INTERSTATE	7,044	717,443.19
TOTAL	147,774	11,573,079.08

TABLE XXI

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Initial Claims ^{1/}	15,349	14,902	447	3.0
Continued Claims ^{1/}	174,832	152,576	22,356	14.6
Number of Benefit Payments ^{1/}	142,760	139,642	3,118	2.2
Amount of Benefits Paid ^{1/}	\$11,440,308	\$10,778,116	\$662,192	6.1
Average Weekly Benefit Amount ^{1/2/}	\$84.98	\$79.50	\$5.48	6.9

MONTHLY

	<u>Mar. 1978</u>	<u>Feb ^{a/} 1978</u>	<u>Mar. 1977</u>	<u>Change From Year Ago Net</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Initial Claims ^{1/}	3,811	4,552	3,890	-79	-2.0
Continued Claims ^{1/}	62,048	57,873	50,895	11,153	21.9
Number of Benefit Payments ^{1/}	51,882	46,664	51,595	287	0.6
Amount of Benefits Paid ^{1/}	\$4,079,912	\$3,734,505	\$4,058,728	\$21,184	0.5
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt. ^{1/2/}	\$82.78	\$84.22	\$81.21	\$1.57	1.9
Trust Fund Balance	-\$9,917,279*	-\$6,104,195**	-\$8,288,498**	-\$1,628,781	19.6

^{1/} Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.

^{2/} Derived According to Definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".

* Excluding Loans from Federal Government, which amount to \$10,484,089.

** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to \$ 9,284,089.

^{a/} Revised February, 1978 Figures. The previously published figures for February 1978 were incorrect.

The initial claims total is continuing its downturn into the spring, as revealed through the statistics' decline from February to March. The monthly total is also down slightly from March of one year ago. The continued claims total increased from February to March, and also from March, 1977. Both statistics are running ahead of last year's year-to-date figures.

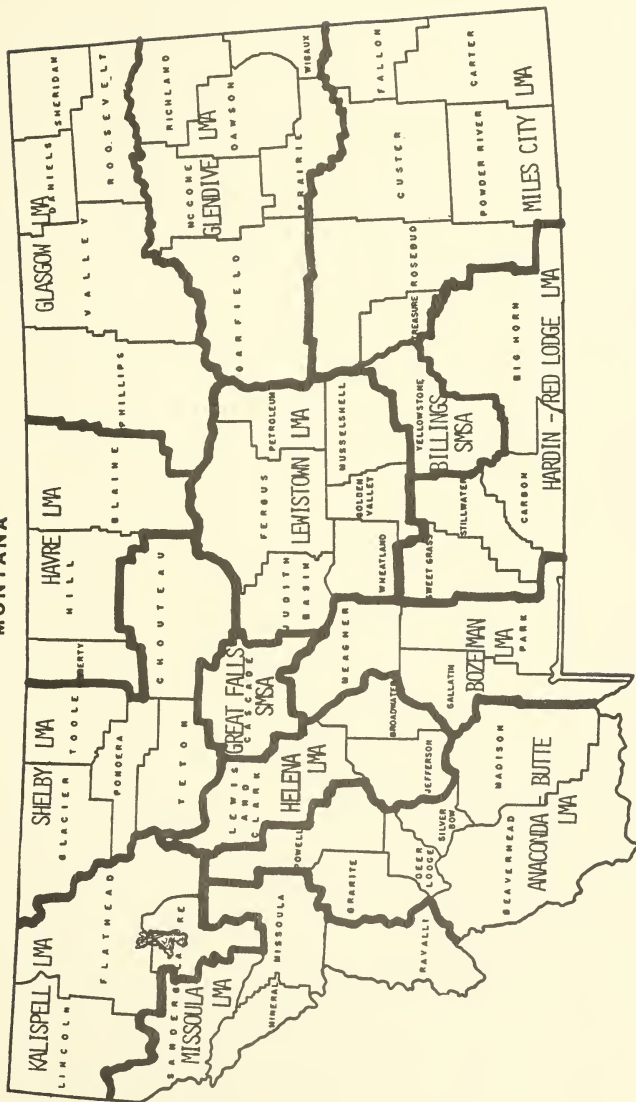
The number of benefit payments and the amount of benefits paid jumped from last month, but were insignificantly higher than March of one year ago. The year-to-date totals for both statistics are narrowly ahead of the 1977 figures.

The average weekly benefit amount decreased from February, but is larger than the average check of March, 1977. The year-to-date average payment is considerably higher than at this point last year.

The trust fund hit bottom during March, which resulted in a Federal Loan of \$1.2 million to cover payments to claimants. The balance should start to grow once again with the first quarter contributions coming in from covered employers.

2

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449



The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.